



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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August 20, 2012

ROCKFORD HUMAN SERVICES ANNOUNCES START OF LIHEAP ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ROCKFORD – August 20, 2012 - The City of Rockford Human Services Dept., along with the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Energy Assistance, announces the beginning of the LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the fall.

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program for eligible low income families in which a benefit is paid directly to the utility companies on behalf of eligible households, or directly to renters if the utility costs are included in their rent.

Some LIHEAP clients will have the option of choosing between the traditional Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) plan or the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP). PIPP is available to eligible LIHEAP clients who are customers of ComEd and Nicor Gas only. Under PIPP, the eligible client will pay a percentage of their income toward their bill each month. In turn, they will receive a benefit towards their utility bill, and also receive a reduction in any overdue payments for every on-time payment they make. PIPP can assist in ways that will help customers manage their utility bills and break the cycle of disconnections and reconnections. The traditional DVP plan is a one-time payment only.

Select area agencies will be scheduling appointments and taking applications for the program. A list of these sites, program sign up dates and required documentation is available at the City of Rockford Human Services Dept., 555 N. Court St., Suite 301 or at www.rockfordil.gov/human-services/community-neighborhood-programs.aspx Clients must call to make an appointment and must bring all required documentation to their visit. No walk-ins will be accepted. Appointments are scheduled on a first-come first-served basis until funding is exhausted. For more information, contact 815-987-5711.

A list of required documents, participating sites and sign up dates are attached.

LIHEAP INFORMATION FOR FALL 2012

NEEDED DOCUMENTATION FOR APPLICANTS

- State photo ID, i.e. Driver's License or Illinois State ID
- Proof of gross income from all household members 18 years and older for the 30-day period prior to the application date
- A copy of current heat and electric bills, both front and back, that includes name and address, issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly)
- If utilities are included in rent, a copy of rental agreement showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact information.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members. If using a Social Security Card, it cannot be a copy. We will accept a print out from the Social Security office dated within the last 90 days. Birth certificates will be accepted in place of Social Security Cards for children under the age of 1 year.
- Proof that the household received TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP, if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.
- If applying during the seniors and disabled sign up period, households must contain a member who is elderly (age 60 and above), or, if resident is under 60 and disabled, must bring in proof of social security disability benefits or benefits pending.
- If applying during the households with child(ren) under 5 sign up period, child must still be 4 yrs. on date of application; must prove age with birth certificate or Medicaid card with birthdate.
- In specific circumstances, additional documents may be requested.

INCOME REQUIREMENTS

Household Size	Total household 30 day income no more than:
1	\$1,396
2	\$1,891
3	\$2,386
4	\$2,881
5	\$3,376
6	\$3,871
7	\$4,366
8	\$4,861
9	\$5,356
10	\$5,851

LIST OF SITES AND SCHEDULES

Dates below are when residents who fall into the three categories can begin calling for appointments. Please note that the City of Rockford Human Services Department will not be taking calls for appointments. Rockford Housing Authority residents can call 815-489-8597 for application information.

Please note that we cannot guarantee assistance at the time of application.

<p><u>SENIORS AND DISABLED</u></p> <p>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012</p>	<p>Households must contain a member who is elderly (age 60 and above) or, if resident is under 60 and disabled, must bring in proof of social security disability benefits or benefits pending. Must meet income guidelines</p>
<p>Liberty Baptist Church 3500 Preston St. Rockford 815-964-9913</p>	<p>Winnebago County Fairgrounds 500 W. 1st St., Pecatonica 815-239-1641 <i>Pecatonica and Winnebago residents only</i></p>
<p>Salvation Army 416 S. Madison St., Rockford 815-972-1135 <i>Not open in December</i></p>	<p>Boone County Council on Aging (Keen Age Center) 2141 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere 815-544-9893 <i>Seniors Only, English and Spanish Available</i> <i>Boone County Residents Only</i></p>
<p>Booker Washington Center 524 Kent St. Rockford 815-962-9117</p>	<p>United Way of Boone County 220 W. Locust St., Belvidere 815-544-3144 <i>English only, Boone County Residents Only</i></p>
<p>Representative Chuck Jefferson's Office 200 S. Wyman St., Rockford 815-987-7433 <i>Not open from October 15 - November 15</i></p>	<p>ALERTA 1235 Logan Ave, Belvidere 815-547-3800 <i>English and Spanish available</i> <i>Boone County residents only</i></p>
<p>Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (NIAAA) 1111 S. Alpine Rd. Suite 600, Rockford 779-221-3722 <i>Seniors Only, English and Spanish Available</i></p>	<p>Rockton Township 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton 815-624-7788 <i>Roscoe, Rockton, S. Beloit Residents Only</i></p>
<p>Lifescape Community Services 705 Kilburn Ave., Rockford 815-963-1609 <i>Seniors Only, English and Spanish Available</i></p>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DISCONNECTED HOUSEHOLDS</u> <u>& THOSE WITH</u> <u>CHILDREN UNDER 5</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012</p>	<p>Child must still be 4 yrs. on date of application; must prove age with birth certificate or Medicaid card with birthdate</p> <p>Must meet income guidelines</p>
<p>Booker Washington Center 524 Kent St. Rockford 815-962-9117</p>	<p>ALERTA 1235 Logan Ave, Belvidere 815-547-3800 <i>English and Spanish available</i> <i>Boone County Residents Only</i></p>
<p>Liberty Baptist Church 3500 Preston St., Rockford 815-964-9913</p>	<p>United Way of Boone County 220 W. Locust St., Belvidere 815-544-3144 <i>Boone County Residents Only</i></p>
<p>Winnebago County Fairgrounds 500 W. 1st St., Pecatonica 815-239-1641 <i>Durand, Pecatonica and Winnebago residents only</i></p>	<p>Rockton Township 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton 815-624-7788 <i>Roscoe, Rockton, S. Beloit Residents Only</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GENERAL PUBLIC</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012</p>	<p>Must meet income guidelines</p>
<p>Booker Washington Center 524 Kent St. Rockford 815-962-9117</p>	<p>ALERTA 1235 Logan Ave, Belvidere 815-547-3800 <i>English and Spanish available</i> <i>Boone County Residents Only</i></p>
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